Chapter. 100

Swimming Man ①

Momo Parfait

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

When I was in elementary school my parents divorced so I moved from Tokyo to my mom's home-town.

The school I transferred to was a small school near the sea. And when summer came, I had long-distance swimming lessons.

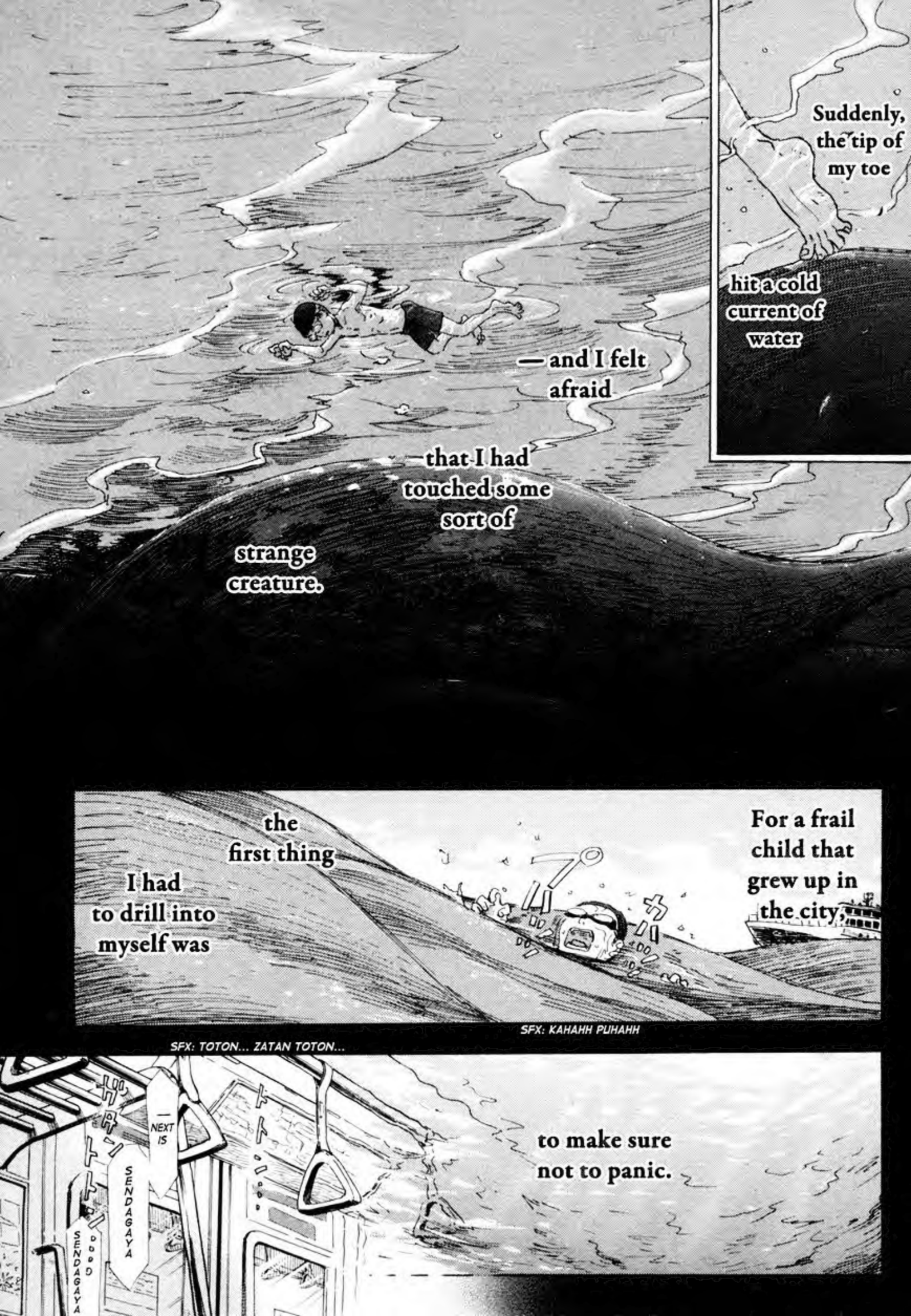
SFX: DOH PAN @YAAAH DOH PAN

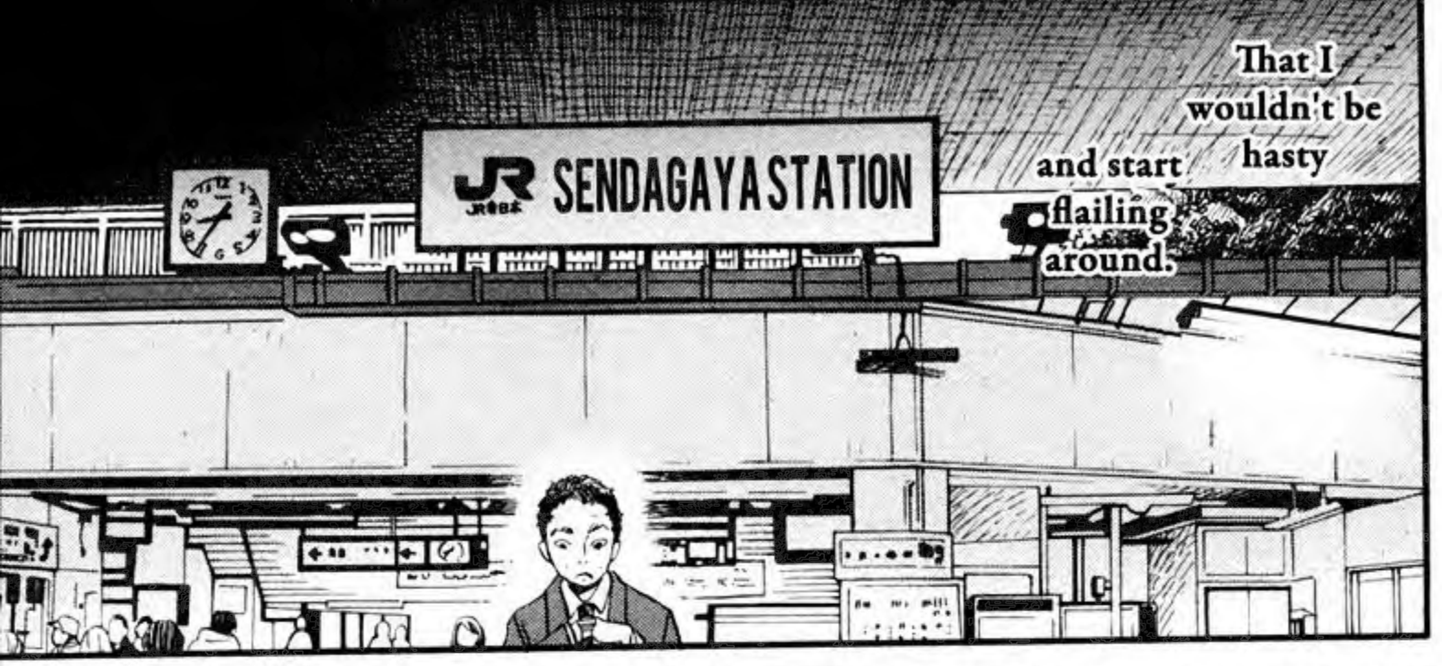
I liked swimming, but I was astonished by how different the sea was from a pool.

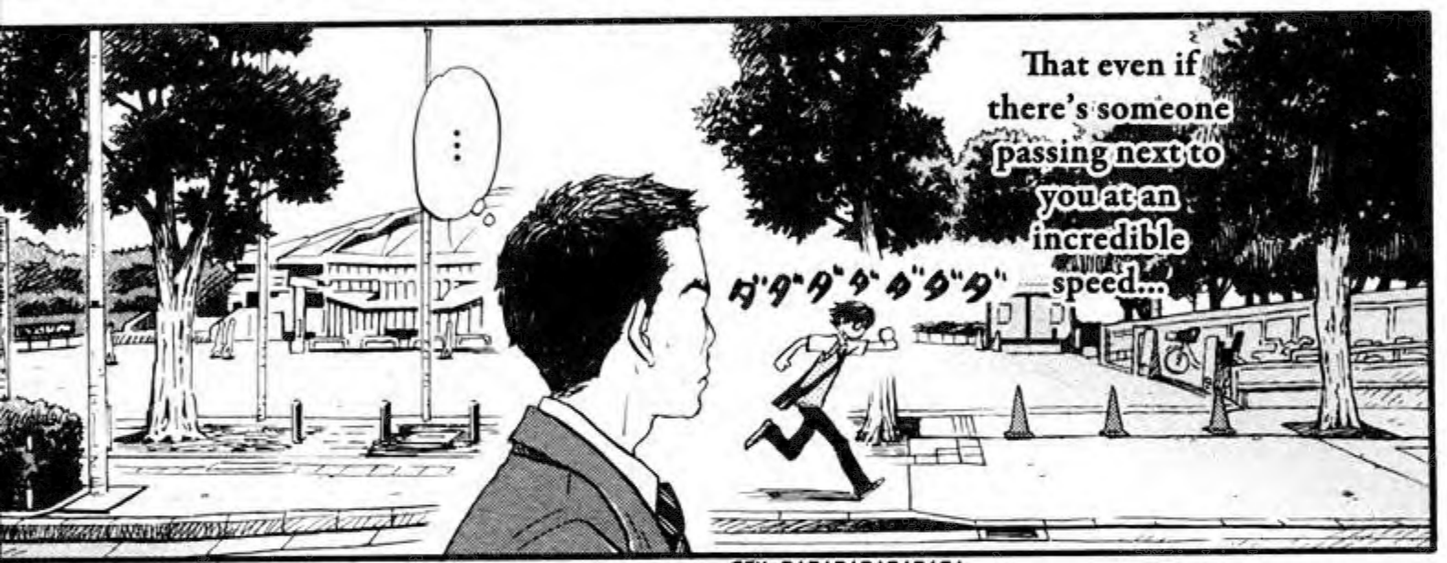
To start with, the water was shockingly salty,

all the waves keep coming and push you around,

and with the timing I used to try to breathe, I could never catch my breath!!


Suddenly, the tip of my toe
hit a cold current of water
—and I felt afraid
—that I had touched some sort of
strange creature.
the first thing
I had to drill into myself was
For a frail child that grew up in the city,
SFX: KAHAHH PUHAHH
SFX: TOTON... ZATAN TOTON...
—NEXT IS SENDAGAYA
SENDAGAYA
to make sure not to panic.


That I wouldn't be hasty and start flailing around.
JR SENDAGAYA STATION


That even if there's someone passing next to you at an incredible speed...
SFX: DADADADADADADA

SFX: TEKU TEKU TEKU
— That you shouldn't ruin your pace because you got caught up in what they were doing.
HE'S STILL DOING PHYS ED AND THAT SORT OF THING.
I DON'T DOUBT HE'S IN HIGH SCHOOL.
MY OPPONENT TODAY...?
Hm...
ISN'T THAT GUY THAT JUST SPRINTED PAST ME
...WAIT,

T/N: SHIRUKO IS ADZUKI BEAN SOUP WITH PIECES OF MOCHI.

SFX: GUUUBI GUUUBI KUIH

How many of these things did that guy eat?!
Culprit.
ぐーび ぐーび
AH!
KUMAKURA-SAN HAD A MATCH HERE YESTERDAY!!
Huge intake
OH, SO KUMA-SAN ATE IT ALL?
I DON'T THINK SO. NOT IN TIME FOR HIS BEFORE-NOON BREAK.
DO YOU THINK WE'LL MAKE IT IF WE PUT MORE IN NOW? IT'S GOTTA GET WARM THOUGH.
Has somebody been drinking these like water?
HOW IN THE WORLD DID THE SUPPLY RUN THIS LOW?
Hurry, hurryyy!

SO, HOW'S IT GOIN'?
YOU'VE GOT YOUR FIRST GAME AGAINST KIRIYAMA-KUN TODAY, RIGHT?
YES.
Umm... I guess I'll take one.
No, two would be great.
OOH, IRIE-CHAN,
WANT SOME SWEETS?
WE JUST GOT THESE, THEY'RE YOUKAN!!
OH, GOOD MORNING, PRESIDENT.
YOU SURE?
IT SURE IS STRANGE.
IN JUST 3 YEARS, KIRIYAMA CAME ALL THE WAY UP TO B2.
AND NOW HE'S UP AGAINST YOU THAT TOOK 20 YEARS TO GET THERE!!
IRIE-SENSEI!! IT'S 5 MINUTES TO, YOU MIGHT WANT TO GET MOVING!
How can you say something like that just before a match?!
Yes indeedy.
Uh, hey, Pres!!
A
B1
B2
C1
C2
19 years old
Kiriyama
3 YEAR
2nd year
1st year
16 Years Old
Born in April
Became a pro at age 15
This year is his 3rd year in B2
Irie
11 years
9 Years
20 YEARS
Became a pro at age 23

I'LL HAVE TO KEEP STUDYING.
SHEESH, PRESIDENT ...
WHAT'RE YOU GOIN' ON ABOUT?
I WAS JUST TRYIN' TO GET HIM TO RELAX.
YOU CAN'T BE SAYING WEIRD THINGS LIKE THAT TO PLAYERS RIGHT BEFORE THEIR MATCHES!!
IT'S FINE!! IRIE ISN'T THE KIND OF MAN WHO WILL LOSE HIS COMPOSURE FROM A LITTLE JAB LIKE THAT.
I MEAN, THIS IS THE GUY'S 23RD YEAR AS A PRO AND HE'S STILL GOT
OVER A 62% WIN RATE.
HE'S A STRANGE MAN... HE'S TAKES HIS TIME TOO MUCH, BUT HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A STRONG PLAYER!
IN BASEBALL TERMS, THAT'S LIKE A BATTER THAT'S BEEN ON A TEAM FOR 20 YEARS
AND HAS CONTINUOUSLY BATTED IN THE .300'S.

19 years old.....

I MEAN, ARE JABS LIKE THAT REALLY NECESSARY FOR PLAYERS RIGHT BEFORE A MATCH?

Doesn't that hurt the stamina of a player doing that right before the match?

Does it?!!

HUHH ?!!

将棋会

DID YOU JUST GET THAT NOW?!

—So that means he was born 2 years after I became a pro...?

He sure got big.

Enough time for a baby like this to get this big has passed since I became a pro.....?

SFX: JIH... SHIMIJIMI... (STARING)

Well,

I got older, too.

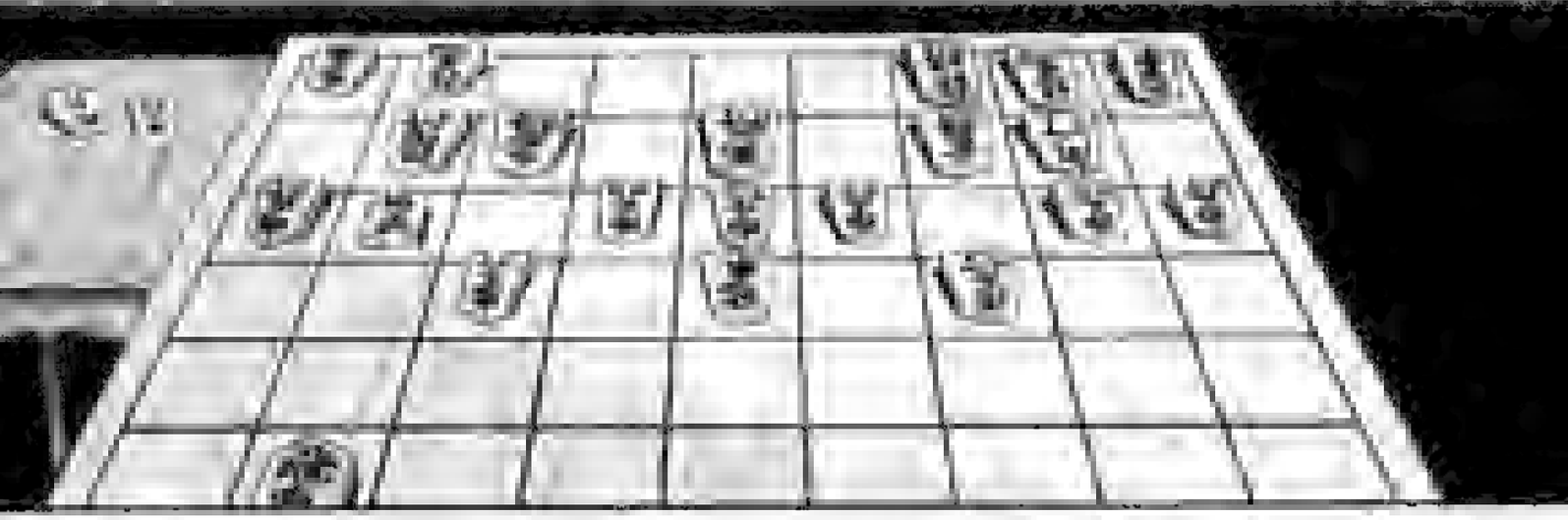
じっ.....

しみじみ.....

—That's actually really...
incred-ible.
LET'S HAVE A GOOD GAME.
It's like 'time' itself is sitting there, wearing clothes, right in front of me.
3 years and 20 years, huh...?
2-7 Fu.
2-5 FU.
A SIDE FU, HUH...?
SFX: PACHI...
SFX: PACHIH

We're still only at the beginning of the mid-game, aren't we?
2 hours here...?
— He's taking a while...
I was didn't expect him to take nearly 2 hours here...

What is she world



is he looking at right now?

to decide on that...?
It took him nearly 2 hours
—And he's retreating?
He's pulling the gin he moved up before back?
— There it goes again!
And I got her by a wave right when I was trying to take a breath
— and I swallowed a lot of water.
I was over-eager!
I got startled when my hand got tangled in a piece of seaweed.
Whenever I lose sight of a wave,
I remember the time I almost drowned as a young diver in the sea.

I panicked because I missed that breath.
I lost all composure and couldn't tell which way was up.
— And it ended with my arrow.
and me crying my eyes out.
— 'First, calm down.'
'Don't go into a panic.'
'If you calm down, the eel will naturally float you to the surface.'
'Until you're calm, turn on your back
and look at the sky.'

SFX: HYOI SAHH
ひょい
SFX: SUH..
スッ…
UMINOYA
OSHIRUKO
Contains mochi bits
*The shiruko is heating up.
It was put in at 10AM.
#130
あったか～い
DARN...

...
ポー....
SFX: PORI... (SCRATCH)
SFX: SUSUSU... NYARI... (GRIN) HONWAAA DAPU DAPU
HEY THEEERE!
SU SU SU
IRIE-SAN!!
ほんわあー
たぷ
たぷ
Hot cans.
.....
What's goin' on? You warmed them in hot water? For me?!
YOU'RE A LIFE SAVER!!
Nakamura-san!!
—Yeah.
After every long-distance swim meet,
I have hiyashi ame and watermelon waiting for me
because to a worn out body
the sweetness of that hiyashi ame is tasty enough to make me go numb.

Even now, I can never forget that.
First, calm down.
Don't go into a panic.
The sweetness of that hiyashi ame
WHEEEW! THAT IS SWEET!
IT REALLY IS!
If you calm down, the sea will naturally float you to the surface.
—Or my sensei's words.
Until you're calm, turn on your back and look at the sky.

Chapter 100 END

HI WA MATA NOBORU

THE SUN WILL RISE AGAIN

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 10

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